

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COUNTDOWN IN NOVA SCOTIA

1. WITH A WEEK REMAINING BEFORE THE SEPT 19
PROVINCIAL GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVA SCOTIA,
MOST INFORMED OBSERVERS CONTINUE TO BELIEVE
THAT THE LIBERALS UNDER GERALD REGAN WILL
BE RETURNED TO POWER. OPINIONS DIFFER AS
TO THE SIZE OF THE LIBERAL MAJORITY, AND
SOME EVEN HOLD THE VIEW THAT REGAN WILL BE
UNABLE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE
ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION OF THE NDP.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE BUILT-IN ADVANTAGE OF
INCUMBENCY, REGAN HAS SPEARHEADED A PUNCHIER,
LIVELIER CAMPAIGN THAN HAS HIS PRINCIPAL
OPPONENT, PC LEADER JOHN BUCHANAN. ALTHOUGH
THEIR PLATFORMS, POLICIES, AND PROMISES VARY
TO A CERTAIN EXTENT IN SPECIFICS, THE TWO MAJOR
PARTIES BOTH FOCUS ON AID TO SMALL BUSINESS AND
ON RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN ON GRANDIOSE
SCHEMES TO ATTRACT OR TO FOSTER MAJOR NEW ENTERPRISES.

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3. THE PC S ARE TRYING TO MAKE POLITICAL CAPITAL
OF THE ABORTIVE SCHEME OF A PROVINCIAL-
CHARTERED DEVELOPMENT COMPANY TO OPERATE A CRUISE
LINER PURCHASED WITH PUBLIC MONEY. THE GRITS DON T
MUCH LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THE GOOD SHIP MERCATOR ONE,
BUT IF PRESSED THEY ADMIT THAT BUYING IT WAS A REAL
BONER. THEY CLAIM, HOWEVER, THAT ITS PURCHASE BY

THE COMPANY FORMERLY KNOWN AS METROPOLITAN AREA GROWTH INVESTMENTS (MAGI) WAS A BUSINESS DECISION BASED SOLELY UPON HARDHEADED (SOFTHEADED, SAY THE CRITICS) BUSINESS CONSIDERATIONS AND NOT POLITICS. ANOTHER PC THEME IS LIBERAL PARTY POLITICAL INTERFERENCE AND ALLEGED MISMANAGEMENT WITHIN THE NOVA SCOTIA POWER CORPORATION WHICH ARE SAID TO BE AT LEAST PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGH POWER RATES IN THE PROVINCE. THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE NATURALLY DENIED BY BOTH THE LIBERALS AND THE NSPC.

4. WHILE THE NOVA SCOTIA LIBERALS AND THE PC S JOSTLE EACH OTHER WITHOUT EITHER OF THEM GETTING VERY FAR AWAY FROM THEIR CENTRIST POSITIONS WITHIN THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, THE NDP HAS BEEN QUIETLY EDGING TOWARD THE CENTER ALSO. THE PROVINCIAL NDP PARTY HAS NOT DISAVOWED ITS FAR-LEFT-OF-CENTER GOALS OF PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND INCREASED SOCIAL PROGRAMS, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN DE-EMPHASIZED AND MUTED DURING THIS CAMPAIGN. AND EVEN THOUGH ONE COMMENTATOR HAS SOURLY NOTED THAT TWEEDLEDUM AND TWEEDLEDEE SEEM ABOUT TO BE JOINED BY TWEEDLE-NDP, THE NDP TACTICS MAY PAY OFF AT LEAST marginally ON ELECTION DAY. OBSERVERS DO NOT BY ANY MEANS PREDICT ANY OVERWHELMING NDP GAINS. MOST, HOWEVER, CONCEDE THAT IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE THREE NDP SITTING

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MEMBERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MAY BE JOINED BY ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.

5. IT HAS NOT BEEN A CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS IGNITED THE ELECTORATE WITH ENTHUSIASM. OUR BELIEF THAT THE LIBERALS WILL BE KEPT IN POWER STEMS FROM A FEELING THAT, WHILE THE VOTERS MAY BE DISENCHANTED WITH THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY AND POLITICIANS IN GENERAL, THEY PROBABLY FEEL THAT REGAN AND COMPANY HAVE DONE JUST ABOUT AS GOOD A JOB AS ANY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE DONE WITH THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE, AND CHANGE MERELY FOR THE SAKE OF CHANGE MAKES NO SENSE. WE DO NOT SEE THE NOVA SCOTIA ELECTION--REGARDLESS OF WHICH PARTIES GAIN OR LOSE GROUND--AS A LIKELY HARBINGER OR INDICATOR OF TRENDS IN THE UPCOMING FEDERAL ELECTION.

MOORE

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